

REMARKS:

Applicants are amending claims 1, 5, and 6, and are canceling original claims 7-10, without prejudice to the subject matter claimed thereby. Thus, claims 1-6 currently are pending and are subject to examination in the above-captioned patent application. No new matter is added by the forgoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action mailed November 15, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kani (U.S. Patent No. 5,493,175). The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 2, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kani in view of Van Esdonk et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,776,613, hereinafter "Van Esdonk"). Moreover, the Examiner rejected claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kani in view of Caras (U.S. Patent No. 3,683,222). Further, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kani in view of Van Esdonk and further in view of Murouchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,036,568, hereinafter "Murouchi"). To the extent that these rejections remains applicable in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as follows.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 5 in order to clarify that the metal plate is fixed in the display area portion and the non-display area portion of the first substrate by the electrode protective layer.

In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in independent claims 1 and 5, Kani describes a metal plate (2) fixed on a substrate (1) by a glass frit material (9). However, the metal plate (2) is fixed only in a display area portion of the substrate (1) by the glass frit material (9), and is **not** fixed in **both** the display area portion and the non-display area portion of the substrate (1), as set forth in independent claims 1 and 5.

Applicants' independent claims 1 and also describe that burning-process-use through holes are formed in a portion of the metal plate opposite a non-display area portion of the first substrate to function in a burning process.

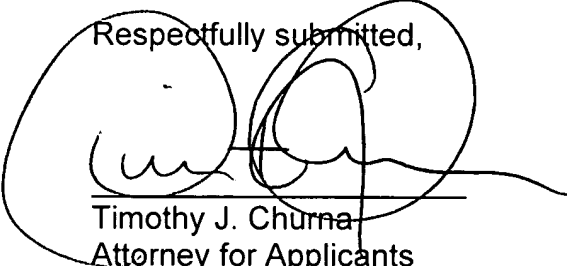
In contrast to Applicants' claimed invention as set forth in independent claims 1 and 5, Kani discloses a plurality of second through holes (8) formed in a non-display portion of the metal plate (2). However, Kani does not disclose an electrode protective layer on the substrate (1), and the second through holes (8) are closed by the glass frit material (9). As such, the second through holes (8) of Kani are not ones that offer escape routes for binder evaporating from an electrode protective layer in the non-display area of the substrate (1) during a burning process for securing the metal plate (2) to the substrate (1). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1 and 5 at least for these reasons.

Claims 2-4 and 6 depend from allowable, independent claims 1 and 5. Therefore, Applicants' respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 2-4 and 6 at least for this reason.

Applicants have canceled original claims 7-10, without prejudice to the subject matter claimed thereby. Therefore, the rejection of claims 7-10 is rendered moot.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an in-person or telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives would expedite the prosecution of the above-captioned patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of records. Applicants believe that no fees are due as a result of this responsive amendment. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge or credit any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 107156-00210.

Respectfully submitted,


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